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DIRECTORATE OF
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[Arab States - Israel: The deadline set by the fedayeen for meeting their demands has apparently been extended indefinitely, but the safety of the hostages is further imperiled by the deteriorating situation in Jordan.

Passengers on all three aircraft--including 145 on the BOAC VC-10 hijacked yesterday--are safe so far, although International Red Cross representative Rochat regards the situation as "extremely serious." Fighting in Amman prevented Rochat from meeting with representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) last night, but the commandos agreed by telephone to postpone any action while talks are going on. Rochat has stated that the number of Israeli-held commandos whose release is being demanded by the PFLP is "very high indeed," and he expects that the negotiations may drag on for several weeks. In a possible indication of pessimism, Rochat has asked US Embassy officials what the US Government might do if the situation were to reach the "final crash."

Although the deadline has been lifted, the lives of the hostages are still in danger. The fedayeen, apparently nervous over the possibility of outside intervention, have told Rochat that if there is any foreign military action on Jordanian territory the three planes and all of their occupants will be blown up. Fedayeen have also replaced Jordanian security forces that were protecting the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, where the women and children allowed off the first two hijacked planes have been staying.

The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the immediate release of all hijacked passengers and crews, and

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asking states to take "all possible legal steps" to prevent further hijackings. Ambassador Yost at the UN notes that the resolution puts both the Soviets and the Syrians--who had held out for some amendments in the original wording--squarely and unequivocally behind the appeal for the release of the passengers held by the fedayeen.

Meanwhile, fighting in Amman continued throughout most of yesterday, despite the announcement of yet another cease-fire agreement. Army Chief of Staff Haditha--who had been given full powers by King Husayn--called upon all sides to observe a cease-fire; his call was echoed by Yasir Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization central committee. Arafat also appealed to all Arab heads of state to intervene to stop the fighting before Jordan was destroyed. Fighting apparently ebbed after the cease-fire announcement, but subsequent incidents have been reported and the situation still seems to be out of control.

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Cambodia: Government ground forces are finding the going slow in their push toward Kompong Thom. Yesterday, lead elements of the Cambodian Army task force had advanced beyond Khnong, some ten miles north of Skoun on Route 6. Only light Communist opposition was encountered, but downed bridges, fallen trees, and other enemy-emplaced obstacles were still retarding the troops' advance.

The amphibious arm of the Kompong Thom operation made greater headway, however. The government's riverine convoy yesterday had reached a point some 20 miles southwest of Kompong Thom. It has not yet encountered any enemy resistance.

In the Siem Reap area, the Communists are keeping up pressure on government forces. [REDACTED] several companies of enemy troops dressed in Cambodian paratrooper uniforms attacked government positions near the Siem Reap airport on 8 September. Thirteen Cambodian soldiers were killed.

Standoff in Lusaka

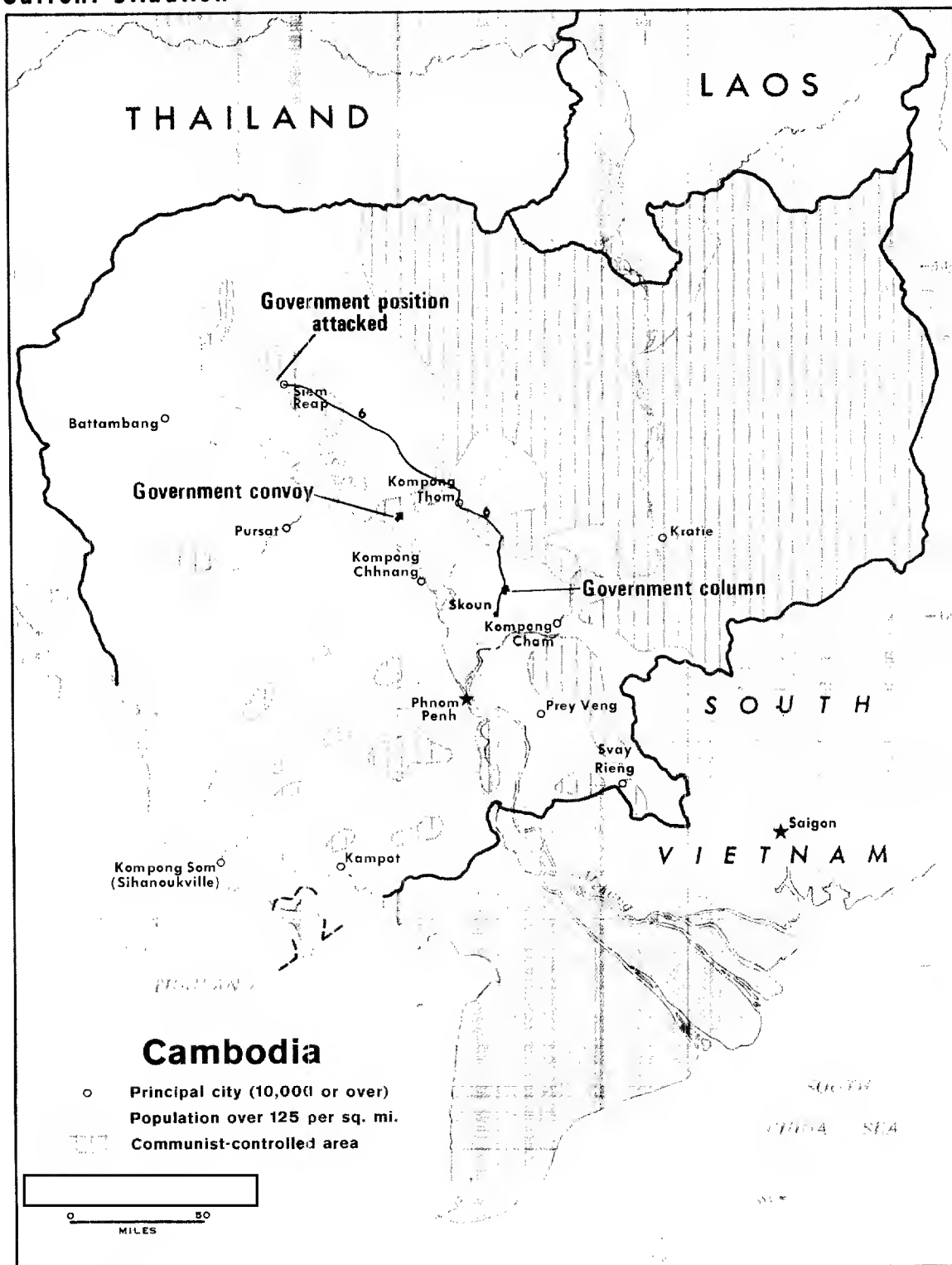
The Cambodian seat at the nonaligned conference in Lusaka evidently will remain vacant because of the inability of the conferees to agree on which delegation should represent Cambodia. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Current Situation



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Communist China: The bland communiqué issued at the close of a recent plenum of the Communist Party central committee strongly suggests that behind-the-scenes disagreements still pose a serious obstacle to governmental reconstruction.

The plenum, which met from 23 August to 6 September, failed to propose any new policy guidelines, and the communiqué merely belabored Peking's routine platitudes on domestic and international affairs. Although the plenum was addressed by both Mao Tse-tung and his heir-designate Lin Piao, their remarks were not reported nor was the full agenda of the plenum revealed.

One major topic of consideration, however, apparently was the convening of the National People's Congress. The communiqué was deliberately vague on a timetable for the congress, even though preparations at the local level have been under way for some months. Noting only that the congress would be convened at "an appropriate time," the communiqué avoided comment on its more controversial tasks, such as selecting a new chief of state and the formal restaffing of the various central government ministries and bureaus. Although praising the present economic situation, it failed to cite progress on the regime's effort to prepare a five-year plan for 1971-75, which is expected to be a key item on the agenda when the congress convenes.

Over the past year, the regime has moved sporadically to restore normal operations in a number of central organs that were hard hit by the Cultural Revolution. However, much work remains to be done in solving such key questions as staffing both the reconstructed government and the party apparatus. Although these were probably taken up once again at the plenum, the only items mentioned on its agenda were the approval of reports on the economic plan for this year and on continuing the more than one-year-old war preparations drive.

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Chile: Salvador Allende is already acting like a president-elect as his opponents wallow in indecision.

In a major press conference on 5 September, Allende came through as aggressive, vindictive, and arrogant, shedding his moderate campaign image. He reiterated his plans for profound changes in Chilean economic, political, and social systems, and emphasized the spectrum of political tendencies within his Communist-led Popular Unity coalition. He visited President Frei to demand interim fiscal controls and the latter agreed to accept an economic liaison representative of Allende.

Political opposition that might block congressional approval of Allende's plurality on 24 October shows no indication of becoming either cohesive or effective. Some leftist Christian Democrats led by Radomiro Tomic have virtually joined Allende, raising only minimal bargaining points.

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Various military leaders are reported

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to have met to consider the situation. Some oppose a move against Allende, and even those who would like to act seem at a loss as to how to go about it. The assessment of Communist Party leaders that most key army troop commanders would not oppose a constitutionally chosen government appears to be accurate.

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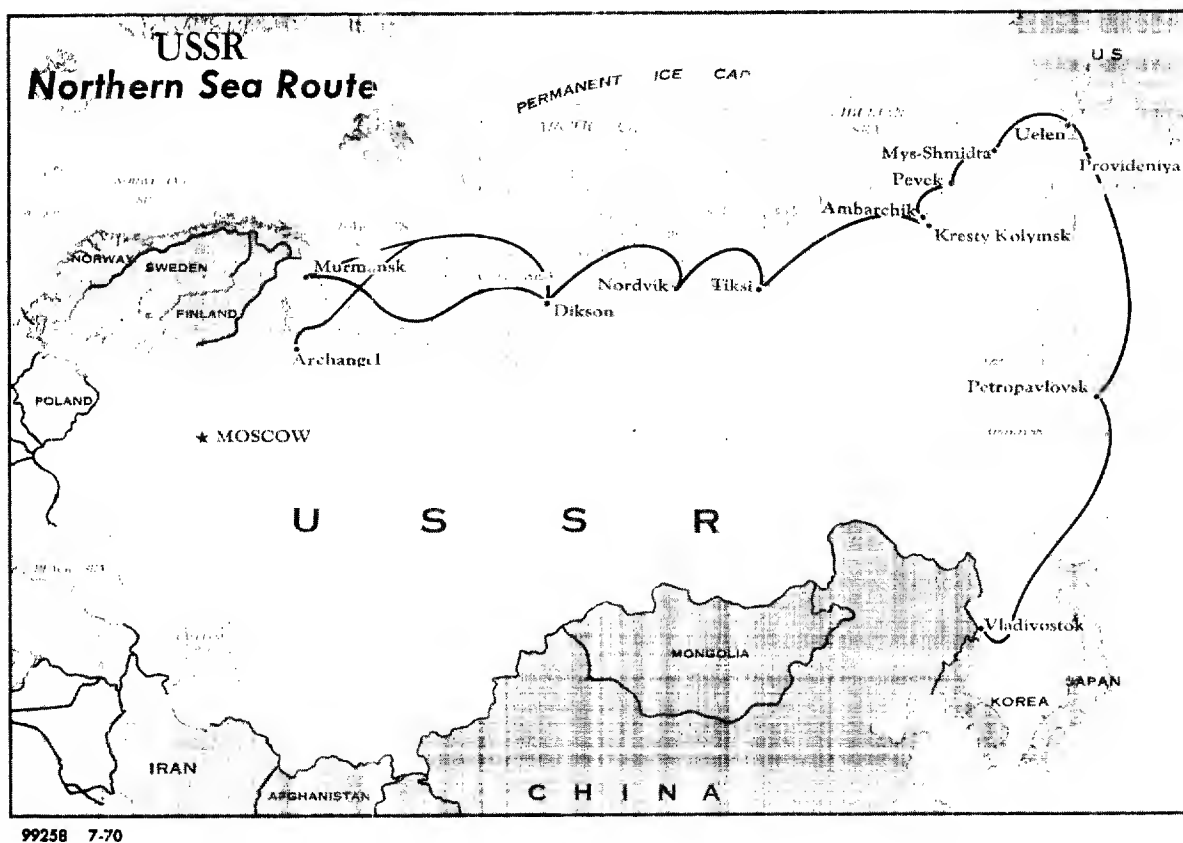
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NOTES

USSR: Soviet naval units making the annual interfleet transfer across the northern sea route arrived in the Pacific Ocean about 8 September. No surface combat ships have yet been identified in the convoy. This would mark the second straight year that the Soviets have transferred only support ships across the Arctic; surface warships have been sent to the Pacific Fleet via the Indian Ocean. Although this southern route is considerably longer, it provides the opportunity for politically profitable port calls and several months of valuable operational experience en route. Nuclear submarines probably also are making the interfleet transfer under the polar ice. [REDACTED] (Map)

* * * *

USSR-Mongolia: Soviet Defense Minister Grechko arrived in Ulan Bator on 9 September on an official visit. Also in Grechko's party are air force chief Kutakhov and General Yepishev, the military's political commissar. This is the first visit to Mongolia by a Soviet defense minister since the signing of the Soviet-Mongolian defense pact in 1966. As part of his visit, Grechko and his party probably will inspect elements of the Soviet forces in Mongolia.

* * * *

Czechoslovakia: Party leader Husak apparently has begun to move his conservative opponents out of influential positions. Bohuslav Chnoupek, director of Czechoslovak radio and a leading hardliner, has been assigned to Moscow as Prague's new ambassador. Chnoupek has been a central figure in the conservatives' efforts to drum up party support for tougher domestic policies. He will be replaced by a Husak appointee who will help the party leader gain better control over the top echelons in the mass media. With the antiliberal purge now officially over, Husak will have a freer hand to consolidate his forces before next year's party congress and national elections. [REDACTED]

(continued)

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Venezuela: The likelihood of student disturbances remains strong despite relatively mild reaction to the passage last week of the university reform law. About 500 students demonstrated in Caracas on Tuesday, but they were easily dispersed by the police. More protests may prevent the opening of classes at Central University, but it is more likely that large-scale demonstrations will be deferred until after the students are on campus. The law gives the government more control over the university budget and curriculum and the appointment of university officials; it also weakens the power base of leftist students. [REDACTED]

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Rwanda: President Kayibanda is said to be suffering from nervous fatigue and may be planning to leave the country for an extended rest in Europe. His offer to resign reportedly has been rejected by his cabinet ministers, who urged him instead to appoint an interim president. Rwanda has no vice president. Recently, Kayibanda's leadership has declined to the point where he seldom comes to the capital from his farm and he rarely makes public appearances. Under Kayibanda, the Rwandans have been politically inactive, and they probably would accept an interim change of leadership. [REDACTED]

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